FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 OCTOBER 1984

INDIA

The prime minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, was shot and killed by two of her own security men at her home this morning, according to Delhi radio. State mourning will be observed for 12 days. Rajiv Gandhi, son of the assassinated prime minister, was sworn in as new prime minister by President Giani Zail Singh at a ceremony attended by Cabinet ministers and other officials, the radio reported. AFP reports that police in New Delhi have been put on "maximum alert" and all entry and exit routes to the city have been sealed off. In a speech carried by Delhi radio, Vice President Venkataraman appealed to citizens to honor Mrs Gandhi's memory by promoting "communal harmony and peace."

DRA

Regarding border activity, some 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops are massing along the border with northwest Pakistan and a similar buildup is occurring next to Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, an Afghan resistance official told AFP. Meanwhile, in a speech reported by Kabul Radio, President Babrak Karmal said the DRA Government must assist border tribes in repulsing "military aggression" and he called for "effective measures" to defend "every inch" of Afghan territory

Israel

Contacts on Lebanon — The Israeli and Lebanese Governments are currently holding "advanced contacts" through the mediation of a UN official who is now in Beirut after holding recent talks with Israeli officials, according to Israeli political sources cited by IDF radio. This disclosure came in response to a report from Washington that Lebanon has agreed to negotiate with Israel under UNIFIL auspices and not under the auspices of the Armistice Commission, the radio noted. Earlier, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon will be "many months" from now after a "lengthy process," Jerusalem radio reported. Therefore, Peres added, "do not come to me all the time with the 6 to 9 months formula."

Lewis on Reagan Plan — Jerusalem radio broadcast U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis' "surprise statement" criticizing President Reagan's September 1982 Middle East initiative. While viewing the Reagan plan as a "genuine effort to recreate momentum," Lewis was reported saying that the timing of the initiative was "abysmal," the tactics of its presentation were "worse," and the outcome is thus far "nil."

Iran

Comment on War, Red Cross — Iran's recent Meymak offensive was one of its best operations, with very low Iranian casualties while the Iraqis sustained heavy casualties in their attempts to recapture the high ground taken by the Iranians, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a Tehran radio interview. While pointing out that the territory recaptured by the Iranians is Iranian soil, thereby belying Iraq's claim to have left Iranian territory, he said Iran's positions on the Meymak and Helaleh heights dominate the Iraqi border roads, and he stressed that it is "not exaggerated" to view Helaleh as "the key to Baghdad."

As for the recent disturbance among Iraqi POW's in a Gorgan camp, the Majlis speaker accused Red Cross officials of provoking the riot and he claimed that they have carried out "some sort of espionage" by passing on to the Iraqi Government a list of "penitent" Iraqi POW's compiled by the "Ba'thist" POW's. Iran will warn the Red Cross about this and will insist that it behave impartially in the future, he added.

Khomeyni, Montazeri Remarks — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in a speech reported by IRNA, told Iran Air employees not to feel uneasy about the presence of Revolution Guards in civil aircraft and other strict security measures to prevent hijackings. He called on the airline workers to cooperate with the security forces to avoid a repetition of "past experiences."

In a separate development, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri urged Iranian diplomats to send lists to Tehran of Iranians living abroad who are not against the Islamic revolution and who are interested in returning to Iran, according to IRNA. Iranian diplomats shuold not feel offended by criticism from Iranian students abroad, he also stated.

OPEC

The Geneva conference of OPEC oil ministers has reached a temporary 2-month agreement to reduce production quotas as of 1 November, acting OPEC President Subroto said, cited by KUNA. Earlier, KUNA noted, the Iraqi oil minister declared that his country would not agree to cut production, thus joining Iran and Nigeria.

PLO

At a joint meeting in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee decided to convene the PNC in November, INA reported. As for the PNC session's venue, that will be set after Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat learns Algeria's final stand on the issue, a Palestinian source told INA.

In a separate development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf claimed in an Italian magazine interview reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio that through infiltration of Mosad the PLO has learned of Israeli links with the Red Brigades.

Sudan

The Sudanese Armed Forces affirmed their support for President Ja'far Numayri and condemned the recent "racist" conspiracy in a statement reported by SUNA. Meanwhile, according to SUNA, a pro-communist dissident group from southern Sudan, responding to Numayri's call, began peace talks with Army officials.

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Karmal Speaks on Defense of Border Tribes

LD302106 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] An extraordinary session of the commission on the DRA border nationalities and tribes was held in the Revolutionary Council Headquarters. The session was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. Babrak Karmal delivered a detailed speech at the meeting. He said:

Throughout history the border tribes have left behind great national and historic records for the defense of independent Afghanistan, for safeguarding national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and safeguarding the honor and pride of our country against aggression by foreigners, in particular the British colonialists and imperialists and foreign occupiers from the West.

Babrak Karmal added: Today revolutionary Afghanistan has become thetarget for the aggression and hostile rancor of U.S. imperialism and regional reaction, Chinese hegemonism, and particularly the regime of dependent and militaristic generals of Pakistan and the extreme rightist ruling circles of Iran. The assistance and support of the border tribes is the most powerful shield and trench of our historic country, as well as our urgent revolutionary and national duty.

Babrak Karmal added: U.S. imperialism and its espionage organization — the CIA — is planning to dominate the tribal regions of the courageous, freedom-loving and patriotic Pashtuns in order to continue and deepen its aggression and interference in our country; and by a treacherous plot it wants to defeat and crush the border tribal masses of Pashtuns in order to impose its unlimited and unrestricted influence, and to eliminate Pashto and Afghanism.

The courageous Pashtun tribes need the all-round and timely assistance of the DRA to repulse the military aggression of the enemies from Pakistan. Because the defense and consolidation of the borders as the sacred defensive belt of the country is a national duty and regarded as defense of the interests of all nationalities, tribes, and clans of our united country, Afghanistan, I draw the serious attention of the party and the revolutionary government to the need to take effective measures to repel aggression and interference, and to create the necessary conditions for the defense of every inch of the country's soil, defense of the borders and the courageous Pashtun tribes.

We sincerely believe that the Afghan border tribes will no longer be influenced by the deceptive, false, and poisonous propaganda of the colonialists, the U.S. and British imperialists, China, the Pakistani reactionaries, the mercenary counterrevolutionaries, the CIA, and other enemies of Afghans; and that they are faithful to all the praiseworthy principles of Pashto, Pashtunwaly, Pashtunwala, their Afghanism, Islamism, and humanity, and will not allow any enemy of Afghanistan to launch aggression on the territory of Pashtun tribes or continue to embark on killing, murder, gangsterism, and plundering which have been carried out in the Afghan territory by the provocation of the U.S., British, and the reactionary militarists of Pakistan.

Under the present circumstances and conditions, where the enemies of Afghanistan's freedom and independence are embarking on aggression and interference in the internal affairs of our homeland and want to make the freedom-loving people of the DRA their slaves, all our nationalities and tribes — united and side by side with other compatriot afghans — must, in accordance with the principles of Afghanism and more than at any other time, defend with courage the borders of the homeland. Afghanism means bravery, [word indistinct] honor and pride, faithfulness to the ancestral home and homeland, faithfulness to the principle of the homeland, patriotism and the Afghan banner, and animosity to the enemies of the freedom, honor and pride of the country — that is to say, to U.S. imperialism, the Pakistani militarists and other enemies of the Afghan people. It means friendship and hospitality to the guest, the Soviet Union; fraternity, equality, unity, and appreciation of their Afghan compatriots, faithfulness and honoring their pledge and noble words, relentless and heroic, fearless and courageous defense of their ancestor's homeland — the revolutionary and democratic Afghanistan.

The principle of Afghanism means the elimination and destruction of the rebels, the servants of the foreigners, the traitors to the honor, pride, and freedom of the country in our localities, villages, subdistricts, districts, and provinces, and in the whole country; and to restore peace and security and consolidate them.

For this purpose all the border nationalities and tribes of Pashtuns must convene their meetings and jirgas in accordance with their praiseworthy traditions and customs and in accordance with Islamism; and with each others unity, with the progressive and revolutionary spirit of Afghanism and on the basis of the interests of the toiling Muslim Afghan people, take practical, national, and free decisions against the enemies and the internal and external counterrevolutionaries.

They should create a tribal defense force and defend the borders of their homeland against the aggression of invaders and gangsters of the foreigner's servants and keep the independent, free, and proud banner of revolutionary Afghanistan flying in fraternal unity with other nationalities and tribes of proud Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal added:

We will never allow the aggressive foreign enemies to kill the national pride and free spirit of our tribes by imposing pressure and blackmail on them and forcing them into subjugation and subjection.

The majority of our people, particularly the Pashtun border tribes, know how to confront these colonial and imperialistic methods.

How can a nation which throughout history has never accepted the role of slaves, be defeated and humiliated when the April Revolution has removed the inhumane chains from their hands and feet?

Babrak Karmal said: The border tribes will defeat the aggression imposed by Pakistan and Iran, and the people of Afghanistan

will safeguard and give unreserved support for these tribes as the first defense of the struggles of their revolution.

Babrak Karmal instructed the working committee of the commission to apply and intensify the following extra measures for further strengthening and consolidating the fighting and patriotic spirit of the tribes.

1. Freedom of holding consultative and tribal jirgas and respect for the elders and trustworthy persons of tribes and clans.

2. Observing praiseworthy traditions, customs, and practices of tribes.

3. Giving assistance to tribal and clan defense forces who are defending the country's borders.

4. Renovation of the old mosques and construction of new mosques, the construction of religious schools, (?raising) the level of government propaganda in accordance with the demands of tribes in all fields. The construction and establishment of new schools and dormitories in Konar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Zabol, Qandahar, Helmand, Nimruz and Farah provinces.

The creation of health networks in tribal areas able to supply medical first aid and able to cope with emergency medical services for the people.

Digging deep wells for the tribes and the Kochis in order to provide drinking water, water for agriculture, and for cattle; and to solve the Kochis problem from the cultural and economic points of view, and the voluntary settlement of Kochis.

Assistance for the progress and strengthening of handicraft industries. Organization of a day of voluntary work by the tribes for public welfare.

Securing urgent agricultural services in border areas, the distribution of seeds for sowing, pesticides and [word indistinct].

The suitable organization of transport and the transportation of primary basic commodities to the inhabitants of border areas.

Taking measures and devising a practical plan for improving socioeconomic, social and cultural conditions of the people of tribes and clans.

Babrak Karmal also gave instruction about paying serious attention to the distribution of economic assistance to the tribes as well as transportation and control of this assistance to be distributed in a just manner.

In conclusion, Babrak Karmal said: The truth must be told to the people and what has been said and promised must be carried out.

At this session of the commission, practical measures were taken in this respect in accordance with the instruction and guidance of Babrak Karmal.

Soviets, Afghans 'Massing' on Pakistan Border

NC301926 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 30 (AFP) — Some 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops have started massing along Pakistan's border in the eastern Afghanistan's Paktia and Paktika Provinces, Brigadier Rahim Wardak, defence affairs chief of the Afghan resistance's moderate alliance, said here today.

He told AFP here tonight that three Soviet brigades in addition to hundreds of the Afghan Army's commandos were heading towards the Khost, Jaji and Urgoon areas bordering Pakistan's northwest frontier province.

Prior to the troop movement, the regime dropped leaflets in the area warning local population that "a big operation upto the border with Pakistan was under way", he added quoting reliable reports from Paktia. Wardak had information that the Soviets were planning to set up posts near Pakistan's border as they have brought pre-fabricated building material in that area.

The purpose of setting up fresh posts was seen as an attempt to reinforce Afghan posts in Khost and Urgoon region reportedly under rebels seige for more than a month, he said.

The report follows Western diplomatic dispatches that the Soviet-Afghan troops were planning to seal the borders with Pakistan. Wardak said that similar troop reinforcement was going in Kunar and also in Kandahar Province along Pakistan's Baluchistan Province. However, the former Afghan Army brigadier and the chief of the rebels military operations said that it was "difficult" for the Afghans and Russians to fully seal the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders.

Kabul Reports 'Successful Operations' in Faryab

LD301628 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1555 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] The BAKHTAR information agency, quoting a source in Faryab Province's security forces, reports that recenty as a result of successful operations by the militant security forces in the province, a number of rebels were crushed. The security forces seized 41 assorted weapons, 4,095 rounds of ammunition, 1 rocket-launcher, 1 communications set, 36 recoilless rifle shells, 32 rocket-launcher rounds and 3 vehicles. Similarly, during operations carried out in Baghlan and Ghowr Provinces by the vigilant security forces, a number of armed rebels were crushed. The security forces seized a quantity of weapons, assorted ammunition, and a foodstuffs depot.

Kabul Reports Nighttime Curfew in City

LD302206 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] The esteemed citizens of Kabul City are respectfully requested to observe night curfew from 2200 until 0400.

Ershad Describes Gandhi Attack as 'Cowardice'

BK311001 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad has expressed regret at the news of the attempt on the life of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. In a message to Indian President Zail Singh, he described this act as cowardice.

The president vehemently condemned this despicable and barbarous act.

Protest Lodged With India on Border Incident

BK301734 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest with the Indian Government over Sunday's incident in Dinajpur border area in which one Bangladeshi was killed and two others were injured by India's Border Security Force [BSF] firing.

When the attention of the Foreign Office spokesman was drawn to the incident, he said the Indian high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today and a strong protest note was delivered to him. Besides, a protest was immediately lodged by the local Bangladesh Rifles commander, he added.

According to reports, on the 28th of this month a mob of Indian nationals backed by Indian BSF personnel trespassed into Bangladesh territory and forcibly lifted some cattle and goats. The BSF opened fire, killing a Bangladeshi national and injuring two others.

In its protest note, Bangladesh demanded that nonrecurrence of such incidents be ensured and asked for adequate compensation for the family of the deceased person and other victims of this regretable incident.

Delhi: Opposition Rejects Talks With Government

BK310646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 15-party alliance led by Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wajed has rejected the government's offer to discuss with the political parties to reach a consensus on fresh dates for national elections.

As already reported, President Ershad has postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled for the 8 December in view of the opposition's call to boycott the elections. Mrs Wajed said that the main issue is not the dates of elections but the lifting of martial law and the formation of nonparty [word indistinct] neutral caretaker government to oversee a free and fair parliamentary poll.

Reportage on Assassination of Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi's Death Announced

BK311236 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] We regret to announce the death of the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. She was critically injured this morning at her residence when she was shot by some security men and she was immediately rushed to All India Medical Institute where she succumbed to her injury.

Rajiv Gandhi Named Premier

BK311449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1432 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as the prime minister a short while ago. The president, Giani Zail Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy at a solemn ceremony in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house].

Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr Shiv Shankar and Mr Buta Singh were also sworn in as ministers. The vice president, Mr R. Venkataraman, was present on the occasion. Almost all the central minister of Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, and the governor of West Bengal were also among those present.

Before the oath taking ceremony, Giani Zail Singh officially announced of the passing away of Mrs Gandhi and the gathering stood in silence for 2 minutes in memory of the departed leader.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi told newsmen that the Cabinet will meet tonight.

Five-Member Cabinet Sworn In

NC311443 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — Mr Gandhi now heads a five-member cabinet, which also was sworn in.

They include Pranab Mukherjee, who held the finance portfolio in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, P.V. Narasimha Rao who held the home portfolio, Buta Singh who held parliamentary affairs, and Shiv Shanker, the former energy minister.

Reaction to Killing Reported

BK311253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] The dastardly act has been widely condemned by all political leaders irrespective of their ideology. Several world leaders have also expressed deep shock at the sad demise of Mrs Indira Gandhi. Condolence messages have started pouring in on hearing the sad news.

The former president, Mr N. Sanjiva Reddy, said it is a cowardly and dastardly act. Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mrs Gandhi's one-time Cabinet colleague, said that her death is a great national calamity and complete failure of the intelligence.

The Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party leader, Mr Charan Singh, said the assassination of Mrs Gandhi has shocked and dismayed every patriotic Indian. Such a crime taking place in the country is a matter of great shame and tremendous sorrow for all of us.

The secretary of the All India Communist Party, Mr Dange, described it as the greatest tragedy that could ever happen in our country.

Congress-S president, Mr Sarat Pawar, said the death of Mrs Gandhi is a great loss to the country and the nonaligned world.

The five Sikh high priests today expressed shock and deep grief at the assassination, condemning the cult of violence. The high priests appealed to the people to maintain mutual goodwill, affection and peace at this juncture.

Vice President Urges Unity

BK311531 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1446 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Speech by Vice President Venkataraman — live or recorded]

[Text] Dear sisters and brothers, it is my melancholy duty to convey to the nation that our beloved prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, is no more. She was shot by her own guards at Number 1 Safdarjang Road this morning around 0915. She was immediately rushed to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where our expert doctors battled for hours to save her life. In spite of the best medical attention, our dear and respected leader could not be saved. India has lost its illustrious prime minister, who was adored and loved by millions and millions of our people. The Nonaligned Movement has lost an indomitable champion of the developing countries and the world a great statesman who labored hard to achieve peace and progress.

The grief that the nation now suffers should be turnd into a dedication to carry forward a crusade for national integration and communal harmony for which our beloved leader lived and worked till the very last breath of her life.

Indiraji has attained martyrdom following the footsteps of Gandhiji. Let us pay homage to our leader by combating secessionism and violence in all its forms and promoting communal harmony and peace.

12-Day Mourning Announced

BK311307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] All central government offices all over the country will remain closed tomorrow as a mark of respect to her [Indira Gandhi] memory. State mourning throughout the country will be observed for 12 days. During the period of mourning, national flags will be flown at half-mast throughout India.

3 Nov Funeral Scheduled

NC311634 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — The funeral of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was gunned down by three Sikh members of her security force outside her New Delhi home earlier today, will be held on Saturday, an official spokesman said.

Mrs Gandhi's body will lie in state at Teen Murti House, a former residence of her father Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Indian prime minister. The residence has now been converted into a museum.

The spokesman said that the site of the cremation would be near "Shantivan" or the Wood of Peace, where her father was cremated.

He added that Mrs Gandhi's body would lie in state from seven a.m. (0130 GMT) tomorrow to allow people to pay their last homage to the departed leader.

She will be cremated with firewood, in the traditional Hindu manner.

Several world leaders are expected to attend the funeral.

Assembly in Delhi Banned

BK311552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1544 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] Section 144 has been promulgated in the entire union territory of Delhi with immediate effect to maintain law and order. Under this, the assembly of five or more persons has been banned. No meeting or procession will be allowed. Carrying of lethal weapons or raising any slogan or staging any dharna [sit-in] is banned. The order will remain in force for 3 days.

New Delhi Sealed Off

NC310839 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — Police today sealed off New Delhi and threw an unprecedented security apparatus around Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Cabinet, following her assassination, a police source said.

The source said that the entire 24,000 New Delhi police force had been put under maximum alert and all leave was cancelled.

Security guards were doubled outside the homes of government ministers and senior officials and all entry and exit routes to the city were sealed off, the police source said. Presumably, Mrs. Gandhi's successor would come from the Cabinet.

Work in government and private offices ground to a halt as tension rose in the streets of the capital.

Reports that Sikhs were responsible for the attack has further stretched the security forces as police guards were deployed around Delhi's Sikh temples to prevent revenge attacks, the source said.

'Sikh' Claims Responsibility

NC310952 Paris AFP in English 0994 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — A telephone caller who said he was a Sikh today reportedly claimed responsibility for the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi outside her home.

"We have had our revenge. Long live the Sikh religion," the man was reported to have told the New Delhi bureau of the ASSOCIATED PRESS, the U.S. news agency, at 12:30 p.m. (0700 GMT), three hours after the shooting attack.

Ministry Names Gunmen

NC311058 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was gunned down today by three Sikh members of her security guard, two of whom were killed and the other arrested, Home Ministry sources said.

The sources said that Biant Singh and Satwant Singh were killed following the attack that fatally wounded the prime minister. A third assailant, identified as Jasbir Singh, was arrested.

Sikhs Attacked in Cities

NC311416 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP) — Violence broke out in New Delhi and Calcutta as Hindus attacked Sikhs foillowing the death today of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, eyewitnesses and PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported.

Eyewitnesses said that at least three scooters owned by Sikhs and buses being driven by Sikhs were set on fire in the capital.

Sikhs and Hindus fought street battles in one residential district here, witnesses said. There was no official confirmation of the incidents.

In Calcutta, a Hindu mob attacked a Sikh temple and damaged it with knives and stones, PTI reported. Police baton charged the crowd and threw a security cordon around the temple.

There were unconfirmed reports of similar incidents in Madras.

BBC Details Assassination

BK310941 London BBC World Service in English 0900 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has been assassinated at her home in Delhi. She was shot repeatedly by two men as she left her home to walk to her office in an adjacent building. Mrs Gandhi, who was 66, was struck by at

least eight bullets and was rushed to hospital were she died 1 and 1/2 hours later. Reports of the attack are confused, but it appears that two of her own security guards opened fire on the prime minister with a revolver and a submachinegun. Mrs Gandhi was hit in the abdomen, chest, and thigh. The attackers were then shot by other members of Mrs Gandhi's bodyguard.

A BBC correspondent in New Delhi says that the identity of the attackers has not been revealed. After the Army operation against Sikh extremists in the Golden Temple in June, several threats have been made against the lives of Mrs Gandhi and her family and security around them has been increased.

Immediately after the shooting, Mrs Gandhi, who was bleeding profusely, was rushed by car to a nearby hospital were she underwent emergency surgery to remove seven bullets, four of which were lodged in her abdomen. She also received blood transfusions, but the doctors were unable to save her. During the operation thousands of people gathered outside the hospital which was put under strong security guard. The area around Mrs Gandhi's home was also cordoned off and roads leading in and out of Delhi were closed by police and army units.

Mrs Gandhi's son Rajiv, who is the general secretary of the ruling Indira Congress party, was on a tour of West Bengal when he heard the news and immediately returned to Delhi where the Cabinet has begun meeting in emergency session. The Indian president, Mr Zail Singh, who was on a visit to North Yemen, is also returned to Delhi. A Cabinet spokesman said that an official announcement about the arrangements for the succession would be made later today.

In neighboring Pakistan, President Ziaul Haq expressed his deep shock and horror at the news of the attack. A statement issued before the announcement of her death said that the government and people of Pakistan joined the government and people of India in prayers for Mrs Gandhi.

The British prime minister, Mrs Thatcher, who had herself survived an assassination attempt only a few weeks ago, was told of the attack on Mrs Gandhi as soon as she awoke. Correspondents says Mrs Thatcher had a warm regard from Mrs Gandhi despite their political differences.

1 Killed in Shooting at Bangladesh Border

BK301559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] One person, who was lifting cattle from an Indian village in West Dinajpur district on the Indo-Bangladesh border, is reported to have been killed in an exchange of fire on Sunday.

According to an official spokesman in New Delhi, a group of Bangladesh nationals crossed over into the village Koiltor in West Bengal and stole some cattle. When the local villagers raised an alarm and the Border Security Force [BSF] personnel at a nearby observation post intercepted the intruders, they ran away with the stolen cattle. Bangladesh villagers later assembled and one of them opened fire on the BSF personnel. The BSF fired back in self-defense. Later, the Bangladesh Rifles also fired on the BSF and they again returned the fire in self-defense.

The battallion commandant of the BSF has now gone to Radhikapur for a flag meeting with his counterpart in Bangladesh.

Mizo Leader Pays 'Courtesy Call' on Official

BK310418 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] In New Delhi, the outlawed Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga, called on Mr G. Parthasarathy, chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, in the External Affairs Ministry yesterday. It is described as the courtesy call.

Karachi Cites PTI Report on Gandhi Death

BK310812 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0802 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] We announce with deep grief that the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA has reported just now that the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, died in New Delhi today after she was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt.

Zia Says Arms Being Smuggled Into Country

BK301622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Excerpts] A crash program is to be launched shortly to overcome the shortcomings in the education, drinking water supply, and electricity sectors in certain areas of Baluchistan. The program will be implemented during the current fiscal year. Special grants will be given for this purpose. This was stated by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at a news conference in Quetta today.

He agreed with a correspondent that arms are being smuggled into Pakistan from across the border. Efforts are being made to check arms smuggling, he said. Asked about the Sind situation, the president said that the overall situation is under control.

Asked about Afghanistan, the president categorically stated that Pakistan will neither recognize the Karmal regime nor consider the question of direct talks between him and Babrak Karmal, because they are not the representatives of the Afghan people and have come to power with the assistance of a foreign power. He said that the Afghanistan issue can only be solved through negotiations, for which assistance has been sought from the United Nations. He expressed the hope that during the next round of talks on the Afghanistan issue in Geneva, there will be further progress toward a peaceful solution of the problem.

Later, addressing councillors, representatives and notables at Khuzdar, the president said that the Karmal regime's aircraft make the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan their targets whenever the Afghan freedom fighters succeed in their actions. He said that bombing innocent refugees is absolute brutality. He said that as far as Pakistan's security is concerned, the Pakistani people will never allow anything to happen that adversely affects their country. The president reaffirmed the determination to establish a real Islamic society in the country and to hold free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere.

Zia Addresses Afghan Refugees in Baluchistan

BK291242 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has assured the Afghan refugees that Pakistan would continue to provide them succor till they are able to return to their homes in honor and safety. He was addressing the Afghan refugees at (Malghagai) tented village in Zhob District this morning. The president lauded the struggle of the Afghan mujahidin and said he was confident that they would ultimately succeed as the Afghan people had never been subjugated by foreign forces.

Earlier, a representative of the Afghan refugees in his address of welcome thanked the president for visiting them. The president, who remained in the camp for about 1 and 1/2 hours, also visited the dispensaries where he enquired about the medical assistance and medicines being provided to the Afghan refugees.

Ziaul Haq on Afghan Refugees, Elections

BK291656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan will continue to provide succor to its Afghan brethren during their stay here and will also make efforts to ensure their return to their homes in safety and honor. Addressing a gathering of tribal elders, prominent citizens, and councillors, he said Pakistan has given shelter to Afghan people totally on Islamic and humanitarian grounds.

Talking to a delegation of local newspaper editors and working journalists in Quetta, the president reiterated that elections would be held strictly in accordance with the program announced on 12 August last year. He categorically stated that any effort toward sabotaging elections would be thwarted. He said there are certain forces within and outside the country that do not consider elections appropriate for fulfilling their nefarious designs and that is why they are trying to put obstacles in the way of elections. However, these obstacles, he said, will not be allowed to get in the way of elections.

The president asserted that power will be handed to the elected representative of the people after elections. He referred to two preconditions for this purpose: The country's ideological foundation will be safeguarded at all costs, and the process of enforcement of the Islamic system initiated by his government will not be disrupted.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said every possible measure will be taken to conduct elections in a free and fair manner and any effort toward disturbing elections will be dealt with sternly.

Spokesman on Afghanistan Debate at UN

BK301650 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has expressed the hope that the UN General Assembly will adopt the resolution on Afghanistan with a majority like that of last year or even with a greater majority. Commenting on the proposed debate on the Afghanistan issue beginning on 13 November, the spokesman said that Pakistan understands that the resolution will be a means of keeping the pressure on the Soviet Union to continue the indirect Geneva talks, and it will prove to the world how Pakistan is sincerely trying [words indistinct] the Soviet Union for a peaceful political solution of the Afghanistan issue.

The spokesman said that the idea that the Soviet Union does not care for world public opinion is incorrect, and the attempts made by the Soviet Union — and still being made — to persuade the UN members to oppose the resolution on Afghanistan, or at least

to abstain in the vote, testifies to this. The spokesman said that as part of these attempts, the Kabul administration has now started protesting to Pakistan on the alleged bombing of Afghanistan areas by the Pakistani Armed Forces. The spokesman said that at the same time, the Soviet Union's attempts to intimidate Pakistan are continuing. Pakistan's territory has been repeatedly violated, the spokesman added.

UN Envoy Rejects Afghan Interference Charges

BK301204 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] At the UN General Assembly's Political and Security Committee last night, Pakistan rejected as baseless the Karmal regime's allegations of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The Pakistani delegate, (Mir Balkh Sher Mazari), told the committee that the resistance of the Afghan people against foreign military occupation was purely indigenous in character.

JASARAT on Consequences of Postponing Elections

GF300948 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 23 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Professor Ghafur Ahmad's Warning"]

[Excerpts] Professor Ghafur Ahmad, a leader of the Tehrik-i-Islami, has said that if the elections were postponed there would be dangerous consequences. And if the elections were held just to give a new lable to martial law it would be a very grave mistake. Professor Ghafur Ahmad said that the Jama'at-e Islami (JI) Party has already announced its intention to take part even in "partyless" elections but this should not mean that we will tolerate every farse attempting to pass as an election.

The warning by Professor Ghafur Ahmad is timely and cannot be ignored. Such a warning is needed because there is thinking among the ruling class, since the martial law has lasted 7 years and there is also international pressure to remove it, that a new form should be given to the same old system by which it may be continued, and the power should remain with whom it rests at present.

This means that the real objective is to keep a grip on power as before and not transfer it to persons chosen by the people. There is also an intention to broaden the base of such power by a sham inclusion of the people through holding some kind of elections.

However, it is not the job of the army, or the persons connected with the army, to aspire to control an elected body. The army remains as long as martial law remains, and with the conclusion of elections martial law must be tossed overboard and replaced by public representation. Another wrong idea is that of whimsical amendments to the constitution that tend to give the army veto power under the guise of a national security council placed over the representatives of the people, which may hang as the sword of Damocles over the head of the properly chosen representative bodies. The hanging of such a sword over the people is the brainchild of such thinking that aspires to become a superbody and that cannot be accepted by politicians. If the government wants to hold elections, the elections will be effective only when all parties are given the right to participate. There must be elections on a party basis, and that is against what the present government has been repeatedly decrying while advocating a "partyless" election.

However, no definite decision has been reached so far regarding the nature of the elections. There is speculation that, after all, around the eleventh hour, elections on a party basis may be held after all.

The army is for defense only. It should concentrate on defense and dedicate itself to that task only. The elections should be held in an honest fashion and on a true democratic basis. The postponing of elections or the holding of sham elections will have very grave consequences.

Briefs

Naval Chief to Bahrain — Pakistani Naval Chief Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan left Karachi for Bahrain today. He will also visit Oman and Qatar. [Text][*Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 84 BK*]

Netherlands Minister Arrives — The Netherlands minister for development cooperation, Dr Mrs E.M. Schoo, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a week-long visit to Pakistan. Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative at the airport, she said that Pakistan needs international support to solve the problems of 3 million Afghan refugees on its soil. The Dutch minister said the Netherlands and Pakistan have been enjoying very close cooperation since 1962 in developmental fields and she would like to look at projects in this sector. [Excerpts] [*Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Oct 84 BK*]

Soviet Cultural Group Arrives — A 23-member Soviet cultural troupe arrived in Karachi today on a 2-week visit to Pakistan under the Pak-Soviet cultural exchange program. It will give its performance in Karachi on Wednesday. The troupe will also visit Lahore and Islamabad. [Text][*Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Oct 84 BK*]

Oil Discovered Near Hyderabad — Oil has been discovered at Dagli, southeast of Hyderabad. This was announced by the minister in charge for petroleum and natural resources, Dr M. Asad Khan, at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said the pressure of oil at Dagli was comparable with that of other oilfields in Sind. In reply to a question, he said it was not possible to give the exact daily production of the well at the moment as testing was still going on. He said that three to four wells would be drilled in this oil structure. [Text][*Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Oct 84 BK*]

NEPAL

Tibetan Delegation Arrives on 12-Day Visit

BK291632 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Chairman of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, Duojiecaidan, arrived in Nepal today for a 12-day visit leading an 11-member good-will delegation. The delegation leader and members were accorded a warm and affectionate welcome at Tapaban, Kudari, by minister of state for labor, social welfare and tourism, Shree Prashad Budhathoki, and a large number of local people. Mr Duojiecaidan, talking to (?pressmen), said the delegation had come to Nepal to further promote the friendly ties existing between Nepal and (?China). He (?also said) we are enthusiastic about the visit to Nepal that is making headway under the able and dynamic leadership of his majesty the king (?himself). The delegation during the visit will call on the acting foreign minister and water resources minister and the industry minister. The visiting dignitaries will visit [words indistinct] and Pokhra.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Kill 3 Terrorists in Jaffna

BK301041 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Three terrorists were killed in Jaffna when the security forces raided a terrorist camp yesterday evening. The security forces also found weapons, a number of cartridges, and other ammunition at the site.

AFP: 2 Tamils Killed; Monk's Killing Investigated

NC300827 Paris AFP in English 0819 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Colombo, Oct 30 (AFP) — Two Tamil separatists have been shot dead as the Army continued its search for violent dissidents in the north, bringing the death toll in the last eight days to at least 12, security sources said today.

Meanwhile, sources said that investigators are looking into the possibility that the murder of a Japanese Buddhist monk in Jaffna on Sunday was the work of a separatist group with extremist views.

An unspecified number of separatists were captured yesterday evening, together with arms and ammunition, when the Army searched several houses in Tellipallai in the Jaffna Peninsula, the sources said.

Among the weapons captured were two automatic rifles, the latest model AK-47 rifle and around 1,000 rounds of ammunition of different calibre.

Elsewhere in the northern peninsula, Chavakachcheri and Ariyalai, two people were found shot dead by suspected separatists, who left notes by their bodies describing the victims as "informants," the security sources said.

The 31-year-old monk, who has now been identified as Nbuyuki Yokotsuka, was on a peace mission in the north when he was shot through the head. He went to the north from here along with three other Japanese Buddhist monks in a quest for peace, sources said.

They said investigators thought that a separatist group might have killed him "to attract international attention and externalise its cause." They did not describe any evidence that might have led them to that theory.

National Security Minister on Terrorist Bombings

BK291253 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] There is a change in the concept of terrorists who are attempting to solve problems through weapons. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that they are now diverting their attention to find solutions through discussion. The minister, speaking at functions held at Horola Kidalpitiya Galleng Vihara and at the Mulleava Shri Amaratilaka Rameya said that the government was able to destroy the basic circuit of the actions of the northern terrorists. They do not receive international sympathy because of this.

Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that Sri Lanka will not be invaded at any time if such a request was made by them. The attempts made by the terrorists to kill soldiers by exploding bombs have been unsuccessful. The security forces have been successful in detecting several terrorist camps. This had enabled them to detect weapons and other goods stolen by the terrorists.

Although the terrorists are now silent, the minister said that action had been taken to strengthen the security forces to face any attack. The government was making every effort to find solutions to the present crisis.

Referring to the bomb explosions in Colombo, Mr Athulathmudali said that no one could take action by standing on the fence. The terrorists made several attempts to provoke the Sinhala community, but this had not been successful and it (?was) an encouragement to the security forces as well as the government. The minister reiterated that everyone should cooperate in curbing terrorism.

Prime Minister Regrets Death of Indira Gandhi
LD311147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] Today Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, the prime minister, expressed his regrets at the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi, the Indian prime minister. The public relations department of the prime minister's office announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will send a representative to take part in the funeral of the late Indian prime minister.

Khomeyni Addresses Iranian Airline Officials
LD301957 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, today expressed his appreciation for the efforts of workers and staffers in the commercial air industry and wished them well and steady prosperity for the commercial air industry in Iran.

In a meeting with Imam Khomeyni at Jamaran Mosque here today, the minister of roads and transport, Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, said that air transport of passengers and cargo in Iran had considerably increased by Iranian air lines since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The roads and transport minister said that this year about 153,000 Iranian pilgrims had been flown to Mecca against only 20,000 flown by the Iran Air in 1978. Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan added that local flights by Iran Air had increased even after the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war and from March 21, 1983 until March 20, 1984, about 300,000 flights had been made locally and that regular flights had been established to and from many cities in the remote and less privileged parts of the country.

He said also that success had been attained in the face of the flight or expulsion from Iran of at least 400 expatriate workers in the industry.

The following is a translation from Imam Khomeyni's speech to the visitors.

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"I wish to thank you my brothers- and sisters-in-faith who have taken the toil of coming here for this visit and I shall be praying for you all. I pray to the Almighty to help you succeed in your task of serving this country which was tyrannized for most of our past history. This country is now entrusted into your own hands and you are now serving a country which is truly yours.

"Our roads and transport minister just mentioned a series of issues and topics proving the dependence of our air transport industry on foreign powers in the past which incidentally is not and was not peculiar solely to that industry but equally to other industries as well.

"It is no secret that the bulk of our past problems and the underlying causes of our stagnation boiled down to a situation of reliance on the foreign powers. During the past a people who were enemies to the nation and who were for our country's dependence on the foreign powers aided by corrupt agents, a corrupt Majlis, and corrupt statesmen made each and every institution and government organ in this country dependent on foreign expertise and products. Each and every organisation in this country was dependent on a foreign country. In practice Iran was a colony with a surface independence while deeper inside it was a dependent country in every respect.

"Today - and thanks be to God — you see here a nation standing on its own feet and busy with work everywhere. This has become possible because you yourselves now hold the reigns of the affairs in this country. You think independently, you act independently for yourselves and for your country. For all I heard in the report of our honourable minister I offer my sincere appreciation to the employees of our Air Force industry and to all of you. That you have accomplished this much and that your industry is not now so much dependent as it was in the past is in itself an accomplishment. As our honourable minister said just a while ago in this same meeting, in the past (during the past regime) the country was even incapable of flying as small as a group of 40,000 of intending pilgrims to Mecca, having to utilize other air lines for flying half or more than half of the group. This was so because our people did not have the least elbow room for exploiting their very own brain capacity. Others wished to make decisions on our behalf and insisted on doing so in order to keep us backward and hinder our progress.

"On the surface we hosted a group of advisors, say from the United States or elsewhere, who were here apparently for advisory purposes whereas their true mission here was to make it impossible for you to use your own initiative. Today, in contrast however, you have an air industry which boasts of flying some 150,000 pilgrims to and from Mecca over a few days only. You have broken the world records because you now firmly believe that you are the people who actually run the industry and that you are the people to whom this country belongs.

"Once a people felt that they were underlings and that they were being lorded over by some people who wished to impose solely their superiority upon them in the name of helping them, then those of our people would become frustrated. [sentence as received] On the one hand they prevented you from venturing on more serious work, while on the other hand you readily witnessed during the past regime that to work here would be almost working for foreign governments.

"Today we must all thank God for his divine bestowal upon us. We must thank the blessed and supreme God to have entrusted this country into your own hands. We must thank him for having made it possible for you to work and serve this country and may that you increase your services to this nation a hundred times more than you are now. [sentence as received]

"Today your country is a lonely one in the midst of all other nations. All of the world countries except for a few are against us, but despite such a widespread global enmity with us, you see here a mass of working and enthusiastic people who are exploiting their intellectual capacity making this country a lot more developed than when it was bogged down on a march to a so-called

'great civilization' engineered and propagandized by the past regime here."

"The independence we have achieved is the significant part of our accomplishments. Today there is no one person anywhere in the world who could venture to treat with disrespect even such an ordinary man in our country as a garbage collector. Today you are your own lords. And of course you know that Islam does not sanction a class society, not would it allow the ruling of a people on other people as their subordinates or underlings.

"Islam has servants, and the nation naturally must cooperate with such servants. Our administration, for example, is a sort of 'servant' to this country and so are our Majlis and our president. And Islam has banned all class distinctions in a society, but has rather placed the emphaiss on 'piety'. 'And truly the most honourable before God are the most pious people'. The closer to God is he who fears him more, and he who works for his sake alone.

"I hope you, too, will make a sincere effort to be counted among the community of the 'pious' people. And incidentally, and by way of transition, I cannot but respond to an urge for reminding you again of the invisible hands which are in the working here and there in order to undermine you and your country. You see, for example, a country like France, which boasts to be the cradle of Western civilization and the exporter of civilization of other countries, has today become a sanctuary for world terrorists, a group of terrorists who have voluntarily confessed to have conducted assassinations and explosions here and there. So you see a nation (the French) which is supposed to boast of a status like that has a ruling government which gives shelter to assassins, terrorists and criminals, but nonetheless the French Government continues with its usual but false avowals.

"They (the French Government) condemn air piracy, but once and if it is an Iranian aircraft which has been hijacked then they will give a pat on the shoulder of the hijackers.

"Then you must exercise utmost caution and discretion lest you may fall a victim to such people (hijackers). If you should see that our Islamic Revolution's groups corps and the responsible officials have agreed to assign guards in the airplanes you will not naturally feel uneasy about it, nor if you should witness a closer bodily search of the people about the embark on the aircraft. If they do it, it is not because they want to humiliate the people but rather because they want to make sure that as a people involved in the conduct of air travel you will not be humiliated or offended by hijackers.

"Once they have managed to commandeer an aircraft then they shall have done an act in defiance of every single regulation of air traffic. Therefore I would like you to cooperate with every people entrusted with the task of security checks so that the past experiences would not be repeated and so that no that no mishap will occur which may be a defiance of your own dignity.

"I will pray to the blessed and supreme God for improving the operation of air transport and for excelling even your past performance.

"May the peace and mercy of God and his blessings be upon you all."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Council Meeting

LD310053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] At the end of tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council the imam's representative to that Council, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, gave an interview to our correspondent. We now end our news broadcast with this interview. May God keep you safe!

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, following the victories scored by Islam's combatants on the Meymak heights, yet another glorious page in the history of Islam's heroes, the Supreme Defense Council held a session tonight. Tell us, please, what were the most important issues raised during this session and what decisions were taken?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There was a report about the fronts and the military operations. We discussed the future of the war. Earlier, we appointed a commission on military housing, after a disucssion of the work and needs of the military. The accomplishment of peripheral war tasks was considered. The government's need for conscripts under a recently approved general draft law soon to be proclaimed was also considered.

[Reporter] Has the appointed commission reached any particular conclusion on military housing?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, it has made progress; certain obstacles are to be removed. These questions were raised in order to help to remove them. So far they have succeeded.

[Reporter] Iranian and foreign press recently carried reports in connection with the clash in one of the camps where Iraqi POW's are kept. The International Red Cross Committee and the Iraqi regime have also expressed their views on this issue. Can you offer the people any explanation or clarification of this matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In our session, the secretary to the Defense Council gave a full report on this incident. The behavior of the Red Cross is a cause for regret. In a nutshell, in accordance with the practice we have accepted for some time, the Red Cross has been allowed to have meetings with POW's without any witnesses. In other words, any of the prisoners whom they chose would be taken, without the supervision from our side, to a quiet spot; they would meet members of the Red Cross and say what they have to say.

In the past, reports have reached us through the POW's themselves that these people mistakenly discussed confidential issues with those penitent POW's who had no interest in the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. The POW's used to come to us and tell us what they had said to them. It was confirmed to the commission supervising the POW's that Red Cross officials were carrying out some sort of espionage. In other words, they were bringing certain information from Iraq and discussing it with the POW's; later they conveyed to Iraq what the Ba'thist POW's said.

One extremely ugly thing they do, contrary to the Red Cross mission, is to compile lists of Iraqi POW's who are sympathetic to the Islamic Republic and no longer interested in Iraqi regime; they have passed these lists to the Iraqis. As a result, their families in Iraq are beset with difficulties, and the future of these POW's is endangered. This is contrary to the tasks of the Red Cross. The Foreign Ministry has warned these people; they are no longer able to carry out such mischief. Recently, when one of the Ba'thists gave a list to the Red Cross, a penitent POW insisted that it was another form of espionage directed against us and attempted to grab the list. A clash resulted and, according to the admissions made by these murderous Ba'thists, the Red Cross officials forced them to start a disturbance. We will place evidence before the world media that Red Cross officials provoked a camp riot, as if they had been directed to do so from certain quarters.

After the disturbance began and the Red Cross officials saw they too were in danger of attack by Ba'thists against the Muslim POW's, they urged our forces to open fire to save their lives. They claimed that they needed fire in order to save themselves! The violent crime of the Ba'thists resulted in the martyrdom of three penitent POW's; bed posts and sharp cans were used. This is a sad account of the cruelty of the Ba'thists and of the Red Cross officials.

Subsequently, our forces carried out their duties and stopped the riot. Instead of our protesting the Red Cross officials' behavior, it seems they have again embarked on mischief and given untrue reports — but I have not seen the text of their report. At any rate, we said that a further explanation should be given. The Red Cross should be severely warned not to mix other issues in their humanitarian tasks; they should not act in a one-sided manner; they should not include officials bought by the Iraqis in such missions; they should not thereby soil an organization which could serve the world! God willing, we will be able to obtain good results from this bad incident for the improvement of the Red Cross.

[Reporter] Considering the Red Cross's delay in repatriating Iraqi POW's, and the clash at this camp, has any decision been made about how to confront the Red Cross, or does the issue end with this warning?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, our confrontation would be through discussing and proving the truth of the incident and showing the danger of departing from a neutral stance; we will do these things. Force will not be very effective in this issue, and we have no intention of using force. However, as it concerns us, we will insist the Red Cross remain impartial and follow the humane goals which — at least on paper — are among its duties. We will do our best.

[Reporter] Recently, the Iranian POW's who have returned from Iraq have said certain things about the savage treatment of Iraqi mercenaries toward Iranian POW's. Have any decisions been taken about this issue in order to demonstrate Iraqi atrocities to the people of the world? What steps have been taken to improve the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, we are doing whatever is in our power. I had a meeting with one of these POW's. It was a long meeting, and he detailed for me the conditions of our POW's capture, transport to camps, and life in the camps. It is very sad that a government, a regime, shows so much inhumanity towards their captives. In any case, the morale of our POW's and their steadfastness have brought the Iraqis to a dead end. In Iraqi camps our POW's morale is superior to the Iraqis. We are not worried on this score. The Iranian POW's will take care of themselves there. However, we take very seriously the duties which the Iraqis have towards the POW's and the shortcomings which exist there. If one compares an Iranian POW camp with an Iraqi one, one can see how much difference exists between the two systems. Of course, we regard the Iraqis as our own and think these people should be in the service of Islam in the future — most of them. We exclude Ba'thist POW's for whom we do not have much hope. However, the majority of them are good people whom we are training for different duties. We will try hard so that, God willing, we can ensure greater comfort for our POW's.

[Reporter] Foreign media have spoken of the Meymak operations as diversionary operations for greater operations. What are the goals of all that propaganda, what were the political and military aims of those operations, and what successes have been achieved by the Islamic Republic?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Fortunately, because the world media no longer has any influence in our decisionmaking centers, they are often very wrong in their views. Despite all the claims they made about being informed, that their satellites could see all the borders and so on, — the hypocrites [Mojahedin] also claimed they provided the Iraqis with reports — the fact is that in the most critical parts of the border, Helaleh heights overlooking Meymak, they witnessed the swift execution of operations. They had not foreseen those operations and could they quite discover the machanism which we had used. They talk without any proper information. Those operations were limited. This is what we said ourselves. They revealed nothing new; those operations were not very extensive. The fact that they were diversionary, well this is what they say; it is not our business to tell them whether they were diversionary or not. In any case, there is no one who does not know how important Meymak and Helaleh are. That area is less than 120-km from Baghdad. The Iraqi border roads have been practically put out of use. With Mandali, the Helaleh heights and the Mehran fronts constitute a very sensitive complex. This is something which the Iraqis, as well as informed observers and we ourselves, know. In any case, their comments do not have much value. These consequences of these operations were very important.

These days, the analysis that Helelch is the key to Baghdad has been gaining ground in the same way that they used to say that Khaybar — the Majnun Islands — was the key to Basra. It is not an exaggerated analysis. Whether these were diversionary operations and other operations will be carried elsewhere is something about which they can guess. We have already said what we want is to be able to launch operations on the front, from north to south. Of course, military tactics will be used too; and this is not something to which we need refer here. Certainly these operations were among some of the best operations of our fighting forces. One of its outcome was to show that despite what the

Iraqis said, they left our territory; even their supporters said so. It was made clear that the territory we recaptured from the Iraqis is our own soil. Foreign correspondents also went there and saw for themselves. Farther away, a number of kilometres ofthe plain below these heights belonging to Iran is still occupied by the Iraqis. Of course, they are in the plains and we overlook them. The Iraqis thought their positions were impenetrable; now they are disgraced.

We have received some of the confidential reports sent by some diplomats from Baghdad. According to them, after these operations the morale of the Iraqis was weakened; their claims made over the past 5 or 6 months were proved wrong. That region is very important to us as a strategic region; the security of the fronts was very good.

Those operation were carried out without any reports being divulged beforehand. Our casualties were very low. It is not our custom to reveal the number of our casualties, but in those operations they were very, very few. In the first night of the operations they were inconsiderable. In the subsequent counterattacks there were a number of casualties, but they were very low compared to other operations. Iraqis suffered many casualties, but it was their own fault. We do not like their human resources to be wasted. They suffered many casualties in their counter offensives. In the first night, our operations were so sudden that the Iraqis were either captured or managed to flee through various passes when they woke up. The next day in their counterattacks they wished to climb up from the plains, but our forces were overlooking them from fortifications and inflicted heavy casualties on the Iraqis. This was their own fault. If they could not advance on the plain, how could they wish to capture the top of the mountains and fight? The reason was that Saddam Husayn himself had gone to the fronts with his own special commandos and had pressured them. In another important military test, during the few days of counterattacks, Saddam Husayn brought his very special forces, either under his direct command or under his supervision. Despite all their efforts they could not advance even one foot. It is very important that in a region where they made use of the land, the air, and extensive transport they were unable to recapture one hill. This shows the fighting capability of our forces and the weakness of the Iraqi forces. All of these, of course, will have repercussions; and Saddam Husayn's supporters have understood this. We hope that one of the results of these operations will be that they will come to their senses and not force us to resort to an extensive offensive. However, if they force us to gain our rights by further operations, then we are ready.

[Reporter] A last question, in view of your reference to enemy counterattacks, please let us know what is the position of the forces of Islam and their fortification in that region at the moment.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani]Their position is very strong. In the past, Meymak heights, which are situated south of Helaleh, were in our hands. The Iraqis were positioned on Helalah heights. From the north they could harass us on Meymak heights; also the roads which connected us with the rear were vulnerable. After recapturing these new heights our positions have been fortified. Both the Meymak heights, as well as Helaleh have been made safe and we have greatly reinforced the fronts. Compared to the time before the operations, at the moment we are 100 percent, even more than 100 percent, confident.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Prime Minister Confident of Victory Over Iraq

LD310041 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today that Islamic values dictated the course and movement of the Islamic Revolution. He said that the imperialist powers feel threatened because of this and have allied together against the Islamic Republic for this reason. The prime minister further said that the same identity of views which had been visible during the last days of the former shah's rule in Iran among superpowers for preserving his reign was now seen in Iraq for keeping in power Saddam Husayn's regime.

Speaking to the board of directors and representatives of the consumers' cooperatives here today Prime Minister Musavi further said that the Iranian nation, (?relying) on its Islamic faith would counter the West-East alliance to preserve Saddam Husayn. He said Iran was confident of victory in this campaign.

In another part, he reminded that the Islamic Revolution was a symbolised refuge for all the oppressed and deprived of the world and it would continue along its course even if it faced great problems on its way.

Montazeri Reaffirms Khomeyni's Foreign Relations Stand

LD301739 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri reaffirmed Imam Khomeyni's statements on Monday that Iranian diplomats abroad should strengthen their contacts with governments.

"You should be firm and independent in your relations and never confront issues weakly", he said in a meeting Monday in Qom with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires in European and North and South American countries.

The world, he noted, has become like a community of nations and Iran should have good and strong relations with the world."

If invited, Iranian diplomats should attend political sittings but they should remain firm on their religious and revolutionary principles, he added.

Ayatollah Montazeri also said the diplomats should locate and send a list to officials in Tehran of Iranians who are not against the Islamic Revolution and are interested in returning and serving their country.

He requested a copy of the list "so that, Inshallah, something fundamental is done for them in practice, in order to realize the

imam's emphatic order (that is) to arrange for the return of these individuals to their country."

On their relationship with Iranian students, he said Iranian diplomatic representatives should not feel offended by criticism from the students.

"Basically, appropriate criticism should be expressed in the society. If we want our nation and country to grow in every field and to be informed of weak points and to eliminate them, we have no option but to have the permission to make points and criticise."

Leaders and officials, including himself the president, the prime minister and ministers should not be annoyed by good and brotherly criticism, Ayatollah Montazeri said.

The head of the Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini also received the group in Qom Monday.

He called on the diplomats to establish contacts with the committed ulema in various countries to convey the message of the Islamic Revolution and warn them of the plots of some Muslim governments against Islam.

Lectures Ambassadors on Islam

GF301636 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri received in Qom on 29 October the ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran to European and American countries. The ambassadors were led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In an address he made during the meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran is the beginning of a new age in Islamic history and for all Muslim peoples. He added: This revolution has come to raise again the lofty Islamic issues and to instill hope and life into the hearts of Muslims and oppressed and wronged peoples.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the terror that international oppression has of Islam and the Islamic Revolution. He said: Despite the fundamental differences between them, there is a multifaceted cooperation between capitalist and communist blocs to confront Islamic resurgence. He pointed out the inability of the forces of the East and the West to face the Islamic upsurge among Muslims and world's oppressed, despite the aid these forces give to Saddam Husayn's regime in its war against the Islamic Revolution. He asserted that these conspiracies of the enemies of Islam merely prove how strong and capable Islam is and how weak international oppression is.

Supreme Defense Council Discusses War Effort

LD302357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council held a session tonight under the chairmanship of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. The session was also attended by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and General Zahirnezhad, the imam's representatives to the Supreme Defense Council; Prime MinisterMusavi-Khamene'i; Chief of the Joint Staff Colonel Sohrabi; Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati; Minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Rafiqdust; Chairman of the Defense Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Ruhani; IRGC Deputy Commander Sham'khani; Colonel Rahimi of the Defense Ministry; War Publicity Staff Headquarters Supervisor Kharrazi; and Secretary to the Supreme Defense Council Nazaran. After a review of the warfronts situation and the latest war developments, discussions were held and decisions were reached concerning future plans, steps to be taken by the commission responsible for investigating military housing, the recent clash in one of the camps where the Iraqi POW's are being held, and steps being taken to disclose the poor state in which the Iraqi regime maintains Iranian POW camps.

Majlis Deputy Scores 'Reactionary Regimes' Conferences

GF281626 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani presided over the Majlis open session today. The deputy for Andimeshk spoke in today's session and condemned the measures carried out by reactionary regimes in the area — including the convening of conferences — to save Saddam Husayn. He said: Following every victory scored by the zealous heroes of Islam the reactionary and dependent regimes in the area hold a meeting to save Saddam Husayn. However, they must know that the people are daily discovering the truth about such conferences. These conferences, whose only aim is to save Saddam Husayn, will not be of any use.

Majlis Deputies Propose International University

LD301650 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — In the open session of the Majlis here today, a group of fifteen Majlis deputies presented a proposal for establishment of an international Islamic university in Iran.

Several deputies who spoke in the session expressed regret over the recent measure of the General Assembly of the United Nations in postponing the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for expelling the Zionist regime. They stressed that despite this outcome, the Islamic Republic of Iran would vigorously continue its campaign against the regime occupying Palestine. Another issue raised in the session was the rumours on ending the four-year-old Iraqi imposed war and some mediation efforts aimed at imposing an ignominious peace on Iran. The deputies pointed out that Iran would not come to a compromise with aggression.

The session ended at noon and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning.

Education Minister Meets With President 30 Oct
LD301216 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29, IRNA — The new minister of education, Reza Akrami, met and talked with President 'Ali Khamene'i here this morning.

During the meeting Akrami reported on the issues related to the ministry.

The president stressed that services of those committed to Islam and the Islamic Revolution should be utilised in educational centers.

Besharati Leaves for Algerian Celebration
LD301213 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — The acting foreign affairs minister, [title as received] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, heading a delegation Tuesday morning left Tehran for Algiers to attend the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution day, Nov. 1st.

Besharati is carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Algerian counterpart, Chadli Bendjedid.

During his visit Besharati is expected to hold talks with the Algerian officials and discuss ways of expansion of mutual relations.

OPEC Reaches Tentative Agreement on Production Cuts
LD311022 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 31 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA — The oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) currently holding an emergency meeting in Geneva, have reached a tentative agreement on allocating the cut in oil production among the members. The oil ministers lowered the daily production level to 16 million barrels to become effective Nov. 1.

Speaking after a Tuesday evening meeting, the Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy, Subroto, stressed that all OPEC members would share the cut in production ceiling.

He further added that a number of OPEC ministers are to contact their governments and announce their final opinion in Wednesday session. Another issue to be discussed in this meeting, he said, was the difference in price of oil.

Further on the decision to lower daily production, he said that it would be about 0.9 percent. However, some OPEC members were of the view that such a cut did not apply to all members.

On the contrary, the Iranian Oil Minister, Mohammad Ghazari, told reporters that cuts in output apply almost to all members. Such statements cast shadow over the decision on cutting production.

Meanwhile the stance of Nigeria is not clear on the issue. Some OPEC sources have said that Nigeria and a number of other OPEC members are against production cuts.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,896
LD301817 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct 30, IRNA — The Islamic combatants zeroed in on Iraqi positions, units and patrol groups in the western fronts using heavy artillery and mortar fire during the past 24 hours. Several enemy troops were killed and six of their weaponry positions demolished. Also four observation posts, one machine gun and two munitions depots were set ablaze and six tanks crippled.

Announcing this the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1,896 issued today further said that in Meymak theater, the Iraqi movements and activities were halted Monday and five light and heavy vehicles were demolished while five tanks were disabled. The enemy troops' fire on the Islamic combatants in this region was extinguished, being more intense on Gorgani heights.

In Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Sar Dasht, in northwestern Iran, the Iraqi logistic routes, defence positions, concentration points and gathering posts were zeroed in on by Muslim combatants of Iran and parts of Iraqi installations and fortification were damaged.

In the southern fronts, the infiltration activities of the Iraqi patrol groups were thwarted during the said period. The enemy vehicle movements and engineering activities were disturbed and two trucks carrying personnel, one drilling vehicle and three group bunkers were demolished west of Arvand River.

Residential quarters of Abadan were barraged by the Iraqi long-range heavy gun fire during the past 24 hours, as a result of which seven houses and one shop were damaged, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Volunteers From Several Cities Depart for Fronts
GF301022 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Today a great number of self-sacrificing members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and members of the mobilization for the oppressed departed from the cities of Mianeh, Ahar, Sarab, and the district of Malekan for the fronts of light against darkness to combat the heathen army.

Commentary: 'New Phase' in U.S.-Iraqi Relations
GF281138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Commentary: "U.S.-Iraqi Relations Enter a New Phase"]

[Text] With the stationing in Baghdad of more members of the U.S. military and economic spy organization, bilateral relations between the governments of Iraq and the United States have

entered a new phase. Reports indicate that the U.S. Embassy offices situated on the bank of the Tigris River have now achieved a central character after many years of quiet.

The arrival in Iraq of 20 American politico-economic experts and the arrival of another unknown number of U.S. government espionage experts also speaks of a new beginning in the regional policy of the United States.

In this new policy the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Saddam Husayn is to play a special role along with the regimes in Egypt and Jordan. This conservative group, together with the Zionist regime, has been charged with the implementation of the latest American plans. By creating this group and encouraging its alliance, Washington wants to pursue its regional objectives, delayed by the success of the Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The preparation by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime for this possible alliance, considering the precarious position of Saddam Husayn, and the difficulties faced by U.S. policy in the region, aims at smashing the Iran-centered regional Islamic movement. The U.S. Government, which for years had considered the Iranian royal government to be the real pillar of strength, today, according to U.S. policy experts, considers Iran the obstacle preventing the furtherance of normal U.S. Middle East policies. A U.S. professor of political science in a VOA interview said that it was during the Carter regime that Iran fell. Iran had been a pillar of U.S. policy for years; with the fall of Iran the regional security system planned by the United States had fallen. This professor also admitted during the interview that today the immediate danger for the United States was not Soviet infiltration but the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

A close analysis of Soviet policy in the Middle East and its recent moves show that Moscow and Washington think alike. The recent Soviet moves to befriend the regimes in Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR, which are in fact U.S. pawns in the region, proves this point. The silence of Soviet mass media regarding the resumption of Egyptian-Jordanian relations shows Soviet acquiescence in the matter of imperialist designs in the area. The real reason for concurrence between the two superpowers has been the greater attention the region's Muslim population has given to Islam and the Islamic Revolution. This matter, of which both superpowers are cautious, is considered an obstacle in the furtherance of their regional policies.

Experts believe that the change in Soviet policy toward the region is so great that this country has even come into direct confrontation with progressive forces in the region. The important point is that there are certain countries which have gained greater importance in the regional policies of both superpowers. The selection of the regimes in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and certain other regimes in the Persian Gulf, together with regimes in certain parts of the Arabian peninsula, is not a random move. Egypt is confronted with a growing Islamic movement. In Jordan, during elections a few months back, Islamic elements received an increased number of votes. In Iraq, the miserable condition of Saddam Husayn has scared the superpowers. The difficulties faced by these regimes are due to the Islamic movement which forces them to fall into new regional patterns planned by the two superpowers.

In the new U.S. regional pattern the Arab states which do not object to the presence of Zionism will be brought together. As the events of the past few years have shown, the Western superpower wants the unity of the Muslims in the region to be directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran rather than Israel. The real product of this failed policy was the promotion of the Arab-Iranian conflict in the imposed Iraq-Iran war. It did not get many buyers from the Arab world. The Arabs showed that they had no intention of fighting the Iranian Republic because it is really working for the victory of the Islamic movement in the region.

The first move in this direction by the United States was the removal of the Iraqi regime from the list of terrorist regimes. Washington followed up this move with small and limited economic favors for Iraq. Several sums have been given to Iraq during the past years as economic loans, totaling more than $300 million from 1982 to 1983, and over $511 million from 1983 to 1984. The increase in these loans was spurred by a plunge in the economy of the Ba'thist regime in Iraq. The U.S. Government is interested in the Ba'thist regime's efforts to build an oil pipeline through Saudi Arabia or Jordan. One U.S. company has already extended several hundered million dollars in credit for an oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan.

However, with regard to U.S. military favors toward Iraq, we have little information. It was recently announced that Saddam Husayn wants to buy 45 helicopters from a U.S. company. Although according to military experts these helicopters have a military use, the U.S. Government insists that this transaction is purely a commercial deal. But there have been many other instances of military cooperation between these two countries. The AWACS stationed in Saudi Arabia, flown by U.S. pilots, carry out spying activities in the region, gather military information on the battlefronts, and pass it to the Iraqi Ba'thists. Although this information hardly helps him, the Americans do all they can for Saddam Husayn. Recently revealed documents show that chemical materials have been transported to Iraq from the United States. These reports collectively indicate that Washington has been searching for ways to support Saddam Husayn.

The arrival of Americans in Iraq at various levels and the meetings of Tarqi 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, with Shultz in France and in the United States are examples of political cooperation between these two countries connected with the imposed war. Tariq 'Aziz at the annual UN General Assembly session in New York also met several Reagan officials. In these meetings Tariq 'Aziz expressed the desire to resume Iraqi-U.S. relations. He said that he was hopeful that this would be achieved after the U.S. elections in another 10 days. Recently, Saddam Husayn too expressed his hopes for the renewal of relations between Iraq and the United States.

The Ba'thist regime, in connection with the proposal for ouster of the Israel from the United Nations, also has tried to stay on the right side of the United States and Israel. With the arrival in Baghdad of many members of the U.S. politico-economic spy organization, bilateral relations between Iraq and the United States have entered a new phase. This apparent growth in relations is not a reaction to the limited relations in the past but shows that the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq has become more miserable and desperate. The regional policies of the two super-

powers in the Middle East that seek to unite and strengthen the conservative regimes cannot have a bright future. It will not last long, because with the fall of the Iraqi regime, Iraq will be out of the alliance. The regimes in Egypt and Jordan also are in no position to have bright futures. Recently an American expert proposed that the United States shoud support all those regimes that are threatened by the Islamic movement. This expert named Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and certain others and identified them as regimes which are threatened by the Islamic Revolution. This is the long-standing view among the political experts of the Western superpower that is now being put into practice.

The regional U.S. policy which follows these lines is already a failure. The Islamic Republic of Iran and all the Islamic and progressive forces of the region with all their power will oppose the plots and policies in the Middle East of both superpowers, especially the Western superpower.

Afghan Rebels Down Soviet Helicopters

GF301023 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Afghan Muslim fighters last week downed two helicopters belonging to the Soviet occupation forces in the Dar ol Oman region, 12 km from Kabul.

Reports from Afghanistan have said that the Soviet occupation forces have strengthened their positions in Kabul and imposed strict control on the roads leading to the city for fear of further operations by the Muslim fighters. The mujahidin, however, are continuing their operations with the help of the citizens.

The reports added that the Soviet occupation forces, in reprisal for the Muslim fighters' attacks, recently killed 35 civilian citizens in the Kahdestan area in Herat Province.

Soviet Offensive in Afghanistan Fails

LD301747 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 30 Oct 84

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Pr. Oct. 30 IRNA — A nine-day Soviet offensive to dislodge Afghan mujahidin from their bases in Farah Province has failed, reliable Afghan sources said here.

The 5,000 strong Soviet and Afghan Government forces who were supported by large number of tanks and armored personnel carriers suffered 60 dead.

The sources said the scene of the battle is 35 km from the Shindand air base and is a strategic operational ground for the mujahidin fighters.